

Blakey's intro to Castro tape selections from four hours.

Blakey says that Castro's remarks on the Clark fabrications "is not suitable for playing in a public room" so he reads Castro's comment. (Merely dignifying this by asking Castro about it is the committee's self-characterization.) Castro suggests Clark had intelligence connections. (Tape mechanically poor only.)

Comer Clark died 1972. Committee found Clark's reputation "not good." Stories Blakey cites clear fabrications. But he says that reliable and confidential US govt. sources confirm representations. (They gave it to Gardner in advance. He has this in this morning's paper.)

Blakey refers to Cuebela as Que-libra, accent on li. Says Cuebele did not tell Cuban government of his CIA connections.

Elana Garra Zapata (phon) taken as legit. "As far as is known no service has initiated" any investigation of what he says is from an undependable source. He describes her story as "interesting." Many fictions are but are they fit for official acknowledgement and investigation. Her tale has Oswald at a Duran party.

Gave her story to Charles Thomas, American Foreign Service Officer, with whom she became friends, after her original visit to USEmb was not credited there.

Thomas later committed suicide. Over failure to get promoted.

Alleged relevant witnesses refused to talk to committee.

Blakey goes into other spook stories disclosed under FOIA and pretends there is a basis for them and for looking into them, as there isn't and wasn't. With Contreras, the Mexican government gave them ~~no~~ proof that Contreras was a liar and not a student for three years before the alleged date of his meeting with Oswald as a student. Nonetheless, Blakey says, they have to give it some credence because it is like other fabrications.

Here Blakey shifts focus away from Mexico City and Cuba and to Secret Service and other agencies.

Says ~~hax~~ the committee has gone farther than the Commission by assembling threats from the SS files. In fact it testified to threats before the Commission. After long buildup of SS history call Tom Kelley as Inspector.

Was in Louisville when sent to Dallas to find out what happened. Sat in on four police Oswald interviews.

Kelley goes into last meeting/interrogation at which he spoke to LHO. Says Oswald "indicated that he would talk to me later on." See my interpretation in WW (I)

Dallas police prevented his getting into ambulance as it took LHO to hospital.

Interview of Marina, said put detail with her "after Lee Harvey assassination," which is not accurate. Before LHO shot.

Says Dallas police "had some information on" Oswald ~~xx~~ in context of prior to crime. Did not talk to Greer, not named, and "reviewed his conduct."

Committee seems to be building up for negligence case, esp. with driver. Question, "Were they given any training in defensive driving?" In Dealey Plaza this was impossible.

Unnamed "Special Agent in Charge of White House detail testified before this committee that he was removed..." ~~Bohner~~ Kelley says his performance was "routine at that time," nothing wrong with assignment of agents, etc.

Questioner says "You were aware that Lee Harvey Oswald had been a member of the FPCC, the Fair Play for Castro Committee?" (sic). Member as used here is misleading and prejudicial.

Asked about informer report that Quintan P. Macahdo was a Castro terrorist assassin. (Not asked about dependability of informant, obviously an anti-Castro, who had more of these inventions that dogs have hairs.)

Conferred with "Jim Halley, my counterpart," at DFO. No records from DFO on this.

Asked if he knew of Castro's 9/7/63 speech about CIA threats and "that he would respond in kind." This is not the content of the news accounts. It is an exaggerated interpretation, politically without reason but of right-wing perspective.

In response to what can be taken as prejudicial questioning he says "every building" is a risk, but that the degree of risks vary.

Asked about Milteer threat. Questioner relates this threat to JFK's 11/18/63 trip to Miami. The organizations "were amcontinuing investigation by the FBI," which kept SS informed. Questioner repeats that the threat was for that day in Miami. Out of context and righh questions about this and other contemporaneous threats not asked. Plenty of others in Miami only Idid not give them the attention I gave Milteer. (Some follow. Records all brought to light under FOIA, not by HSCA. I have, for example.) Is it not Quintera rather than the varying ways the HSXA reads it? Kelley says they were not able to connect it with Oswald matter.

Ford questions without time limit.

He actually says the first shot missed anf there were seven seconds before the fatal shot so what should the agents have done? Well, one obvious answer is to melt their way out of a sul de sac. Perhaps climb grassy knoll?

Goes into what I used in WWII on the FBI silencing people at Klein's Sporting Goods. Ford's question is "were you (meaning also the FBI) investigating independently?" Ford does not ask about the FBI foreclosing all others, to keep control.

Ford alleges there were "significant" proofs of Oswald'd connections with the Cuban government anf groups and asks if they were "aware." Ford adds "But you did have information on his involvement with the pro-Castro..." and stops here. Kelley responds "yes" but there is no such "information and it is not true."

PRS review of field office inquiry. Asked to name them he does not. Ford does not repeat question. It appears that Ford is asking questions written out for him and not following up on the answers but advancing to other questions. He reads a question about files "should or should not be given to the Warren Commission" after Kelley told him that he saw to it t at nothing was withheld from the Commission and that he personally saw to this, it was his job.

Ford interprets Castro 9/7/63 speech "as a direct threat" to JFK and asks about any investigation from this of pro-Castro supporters.

"Did it occur to you at that time to investigate all pro-Castro persons....in Secret Service intelligence files." after he has testified to the extent of their personnel and left no doubt that if there was nay basis for an investigation it was the FBI's. But who could possibly nvestigate "all pro-Castro persons?"

Ford repeats same line, adding something attributed to Marina.

Ford alleges Machado info withheld from Commission. Kelley replies that they told WC about Machado alleged threat given to Commission and it knew there was more it if wanted more and the file number would have located it automatically if the Commission asked for it.

(If there is a basis for asking questions relating to SS performance, the questions have not been legitimately directed at any alleged failings, even with the WC after the assassination.)

Ford tries to say that the SS withheld even a "clue" about the alleged plot files, which is opposite what Kelley testified to, in the formulation of his previously prepared question.

Ford alleges that Oswald was a New Orleans member of the local FPCC, which did not exist, and of anti-Castros. Counsel identified as Matthews by Stokes.

Stokes comes back to allegations that agents broke rules and asks if they were "evaluated in terms of performance." There was "no indication" of this, Kelley says, which seems to be the case. So Stokes asks if he reviewed the Zapruder film and goes back to Ford's question "on reaction time." Was it "top performance?" incredibly, and without talking about what they could have done Kelley defends. Sokes says that it is clear that Connaly reacted to the first shot, which is dubious at best, and asks that this be compared with the SA agents in that car. Kelley says there is no reaction by agents, which is not true, and Stokes picks up from WW II to compare with agents in followup car. Kelley corrects him on timing.

When Stokes returns to the night before and agents behavior Kelley fails to say that this was not the duty crew of agents. Stokes questions obscures this - it was not the crew on first-day duty. Stokes even asks in terms of their performance the following

Stokes then goes back to "high buildings" without any indication of the great number of these, so many even higher, and whether or not it was possible to cover them/ ~~xxxxxx~~ all.

Devine says Kelley is retired, February of this year. Retired as an assistant director.

Devine asks about SS right to veto announcing of motorcade routes and even of motorcades without indicating that this happened in Miami a few days earlier.

Fithian says he wants to pursue the Devine line and asks what can be done legislatively to improve the protection of the President. Kelley says he is not sure he has an answer. Can't be sure if the President wants and gets exposure.

Fithian is well cued in. he keeps referring to "Protective Service" as "Selective Service." And suppose they had a law preventing the president from having this political exposure.

McKinney asks about enlarging the SS to replace all local cops wherever the president goes!

McKinney goes into bubble top of 1963 and asks who made the decision not to have it on then. Kelley says he is not best witness. Well know not that of Secret Service, which had it on.

Asks why no agents riding rear platforms of car. Kelley says JFK had said he didn't want them, also well known.

Edgar asks about Kelley's presence at DPD Oswald interviews, which he has already testified to, and asks why was there no tape recorder? Kelley says he was the DPD's guest and felt he could not insist. He thinks he initially presumed it was being recorded. Edgar goes back to Kelley's questioning of Oswald. "He indicated to me he was a Communist but not a Marxist." (Did I get this right? Repeats that Oswald indicated he would talk to him later. Edgar asks if LHO indicated Kelley was first SS agent to talk to him. Edgar asks if LHO ran into an agent as he left TSBD! Well known no SS agents there.

His impression of Marina "she was terribly frightened that something was going to (or would) happen to her. Repeats twice fear of US government. No agency indicated to him. Volunteers "She did not gat along with the FBI." (Not what she testified to HSCA)

Sawyer asks about any "specific contingency plan." Could one anticipate the Dallas locale? There was no place down town where there could have been an appropriate plan.

Sawyer goes back to reaction time and Z film, says Connally reacted when SS didn't. Does not say Connally not wounded first or that agents might not have interpreted sound as rifle shot. Does not go into Connally recollection, which is the relevant evidence rather than the film.

Kelley uses his five minutes to repeat reduction in intelligence info from FOIA and PA.

PM: Volz corrects himself on LHO MxCy ~~tap~~ transcripts being destroyed. Says it was tape and that was natural but committee has transcript available. Nina T then paraphrases what Blakey said to make it appear that he had said the account of astro's alleged prior knowledge of JFK assassination is true. He did not say that but this reaction was his apparent intent.

Volz goes into Florence Graves' Wash. Jour. Review piece saying the committee did not try for ~~ETA~~ CBS's outtakes of early interviews and Volz says he does not know what this has to do with journalism. CBS News is not journalism? Or the major media ignoring such stories are not within the purview of a journalism review?

Nina T goes into reports asking what will happen to committee's files and postulates more cries of coverup. What will be covered is the committee, not fact about the crimes.

Committee late starting, attributed to votes on floor House. 35 minutes late.

Rowley next, Blakey introduces him by background. Cleotus Matthews is questioning counsel.

Rowley was at a law-enforcement luncheon when learned about assassination.

Matthews asked if he received any reports on how agents behaved, and when Rowley asks what he means he said at the time of the shooting incident. Rowley says that under circumstances it was adequate.

Matthews says the one "who was removed from his position" is "the chief of the intelligence branch." It was Protective Research Branch, which is not very good performance for a counsel who claims to be referring to the committee's own record.

Rowley says he asked INS to close Mexican border.

Questioning only says that Kelley only was Warren Commission liaison. Not so. I recall Elmer Moorse was active in this.

In referring to exhibits Matthews says they are of "the Cuban plot to assassinate the President," which is hardly real.

After a few minutes Ford questions without time limit for committee. It again appears that Ford has questions written out for him and can't depart from them.

Edgar tries to make out a case of SS-FBI non-cooperation. Includes absence tape recorder of stenographer. (Which comes from WW.)

Edgar even says the SS should have taken control of Dallas police hq. He does not say it this way but this is what it means. Kelley points out "Captain Fritz was in charge."

Says FBI asked him to use Sorrels, who had rapport with DPD, to get them to release the rifle for lab testing

Not in any records FBI provided.

When Sawyer returns to his delayed-reaction theory Rowley refers to a Commission exhibit that shows followup car with open door. (LBJ- in WW or ^{WWII}) Says mentioned it during recess. Blakey get exhibit, a photo taken at approximately the time of the second shot, does not say what photo, says it is about 1 ¹/₆ seconds after first shot. Probably what Blakey is too far into the clouds to know, clearly Altgens picture.

He also misinterprets it, as the Zapruder film does show. Mistakes it, says "you can just begin to see the President's hands going up..."

Nobody covers Blakey's errors or asks any questions about them. This is in sharp contrast to its wrongheaded criticism of the heads of the SS, Rowley and Kelley.

Rowley off at 3:25, after 5-minute offer. Adjourn for day.

Commentary Volz and Tot. Tomorrow FBI, next day CIA, then WC, poss. inc. Ford.